

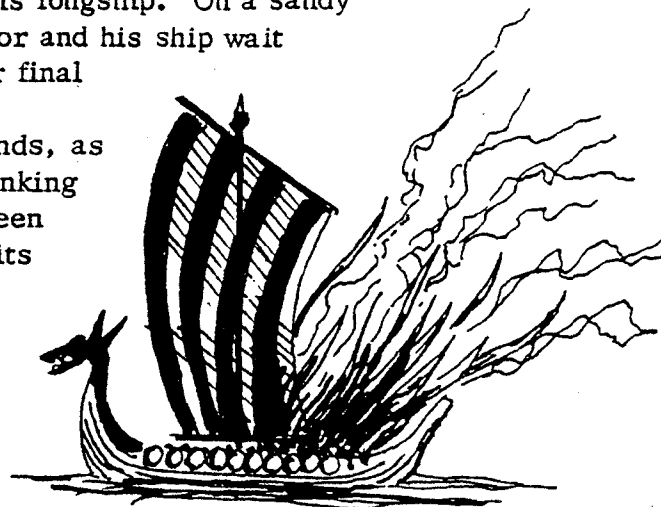
The Viking Chief is dead. Dead, too, is his longship. On a sandy beach, near the water's edge, the lifeless warrior and his ship wait for the torch that will launch them both into their final adventure--a swift journey to Valhallah.

The journey has begun. His family and friends, as custom demands, have completed a period of drinking and pleasure seeking. The warrior's ship has been prepared for its journey. A raised platform on its deck has been built and covered with fruit, meat and animal sacrifices. What was called the "Angel of Death", an old woman, has sacrificed a young slave girl who has volunteered to accompany her master on his journey.

An eerie silence grips the mourners as the dead chief's son emerges from the grotesque shadows created by the wind-whipped torches.

He pauses silently before the longship. He shouts, "Swift glorious journey!" and thrusts his flaming torch onto the vessel, setting it afire. The other mourners add their torches to the fire as a last tribute to their fallen leader.

Then the chief, his ship, and his slave are out of sight--the final sign that the journey is over.



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1. This story is about:
 - (a) a sea journey
 - (b) a journey to Valhallah
 - (c) a party
 - (d) a feast
2. A Viking Chief's death is celebrated by a:
 - (a) feast
 - (b) drinking
 - (c) funeral procession
 - (d) singing
3. The dead chief is accompanied by his:
 - (a) son
 - (b) wife
 - (c) daughter
 - (d) slave
4. The last journey also includes the chief's:
 - (a) house
 - (b) weapons
 - (c) ship
 - (d) village
5. Because the Viking Chief is dead, his ship must be:
 - (a) passed to his son
 - (b) decorated
 - (c) restored
 - (d) burned
6. The tribute in this story was:
 - (a) a cheer
 - (b) a speech
 - (c) firing a ship
 - (d) a procession
7. Customs concerning death are:
 - (a) different in other lands
 - (b) similar all over the world
 - (c) similar in all small countries
 - (d) differ only in rich countries
8. Customs are not affected by people's:
 - (a) beliefs
 - (b) wealth
 - (c) education
 - (d) size